

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 02575 291534Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 SSC-01 PM-05 DODE-00 IOE-00 /050 W  
-----088847 291808Z /40

P R 291515Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6547  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2575

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, UN, RH  
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PREM CHAND OF INDIA

REF: STATE 233200

1. HAVING KNOWN PREM CHAND WELL SINCE 1968 AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM DURING TWO TOURS IN CYPRUS (1968-72, 1974 TO PRESENT), I WOULD SUBSCRIBE GENERALLY TO THE VERY LAUDATORY APPRAISAL OF FSO QUOTED IN PARA FIVE REFTEL WITH TWO QUALIFIERS.

2. WHILE PREM CHAND'S VIEWS AFTER 1974 CAN BE REGARDED AS IN PART THE REACTION OF A MAN OF PRINCIPLE REFUSING TO BE BULLIED, IN THIS CASE BY THE TURKS, I THINK IT IS NOT GOING TOO FAR TO SAY THIS BECAME AN OBSESSION WITH PREM CHAND THAT IN THE END AFFECTED BOTH HIS PERFORMANCE AND JUDGMENT. IN 1974, WE HAD BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT WALDHEIM, FEARING JUST THIS, INTENDED TO BRING A NEW TEAM TO CYPRUS ON BOTH THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SIDES. FOR WHATEVER REASON, HE DID NOT DO SO, AND WE FAULT HIM FOR LEAVING PREM CHAND TOO LONG, RATHER THAN THE LATTER.

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3. SECONDLY, OUR OBSERVATIONS DO NOT QUITE SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT PREM CHAND IS A LIBERAL INTERPRETER OF RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FORCE BY UN TROOPS. I ALWAYS FELT THAT IF HE ERRED, IT WAS ON THE SIDE OF BEING SOMEWHAT OVERLY CONSTRUCTIONIST. WE THINK THE EXAMPLE CITED ACTUALLY WORKS THE OTHER WAY. FROM SENIOR

OFFICERS IN HIS COMMAND AT THE TIME, WE ARE AWARE THAT  
PREM CHAND RESISTED USING HIS TROOPS TO DEFEND NICOSIA  
AIRPORT UNTIL SO LATE IN THE DAY THAT THE AIRPORT WAS  
NEARLY LOST.

4. ALL THIS IS NOT TO DENIGRATE ONE OF THE FINEST  
GENERAL-RANK OFFICERS I HAVE EVER KNOWN AND CERTAINLY  
ONE OF THE MOST DEDICATED, IDEALISTIC AND COMPETENT  
UN FORCE COMMANDERS.  
CRAWFORD

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** MILI, RH, IN, UN, (CHAND, PEREM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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